ABSTRACT

By merely performing simple operations, an operating environment for an application program is prepared and the application program started. An applet capable of being distributed easily on an internet is used as a bootstrap to start an application program which is adapted to operate directly on the OS on which an associated browser is operating. In one aspect of this invention, the applet not only merely downloads code of an application program but also judges whether the application program code is cached or not in a local file system, checks the execution environment, checks for prerequisite software, and checks the version thereof. If the application program code is cached in the local file system, the application program is not downloaded. If any prerequisite software is not present, the prerequisite software is downloaded and the application program is started.